

Lower Delaware County Water Trail Plan Delaware County, Iowa



What is a Water Trail Plan?

- Water trails are recreational routes on rivers and lakes that provide a unique experience for all types of river users including canoeists, kayakers, anglers, and motorized boat users.
- The water trail plan presents a vision for the future of river recreation in Delaware County and recommends potential actions to achieve that vision.

Iowa Water Trails

- 1,200 miles currently designated across the state
- 500 miles currently under development
- Upper Delaware County is already designated

Plan Study Area

- Maquoketa River from Bailey's Ford to the Delaware - Jones County line
- Includes Lake Delhi
- Total river length: 23 Miles
- 7 existing access points

Planning Inputs

- Steering Committee Meetings: Conservation Agencies, Lake Delhi Association, Economic Development, River Users, Property Owners
- Partner engagement – Law Enforcement, Emergency Responders, Cities
- Technical reports, plans, surveys, site visits, and analysis
- Public input – meetings and surveys

Planning Outputs

- The water trail plan document
- Site design concepts
- Water trail brochure
- Signage plan with signs
- State designation and ongoing support

Improvement Projects

- Project Types
 - Boat launch/ramp design improvements
 - Informational signage
 - Access area improvements: amenities, parking areas, restrooms, safety
- Prioritization – Top Three
 - Turtle Creek Park
 - Retz Wildlife Area
 - Dunlap Park

Design Concepts

- Turtle Creek
 - Maximize parking – 19 truck and trailer spaces
 - Retaining wall
 - Paved parking lot
 - Storm water
- Retz Wildlife Area
 - New carry down ramp
 - ADA parking
 - Driveway and parking improvements
- Dunlap Park
 - Improved carry down ramps
 - Improved portage trail
 - ADA parking
- Other Locations: Opportunity Projects

More Information

- Project Contacts:
 - John Wenck, Iowa DNR
 - Kyle Soderblom, Delaware County Conservation
 - Dan Fox, ECIA
 - Laura Carstens, ECIA
- Project Website:
https://eciatrans.org/delaware_county_water_trail_plan/index.php

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Projects

Top Priority Improvement Projects

Rank	River Access Location	Project Description	Estimated Cost
1	Turtle Creek Park – East Boat Ramp	Improve existing parking lot area, possibly with asphalt paving to reduce erosion and maintenance cost and help channel runoff water	\$1.5 million
2	Retz Wildlife Area Access	Replace existing access ramp	\$250,000
3	Dunlap Park Access	Improve the take-out site above the rapids	\$170,000
4	Pioneer Road River Access	Improve existing access or secure a location for new access	TBD

Opportunity Projects

River Access Location	Project Description	Estimated Cost
Bailey's Ford Park Access	Construct a permanent restroom	TBD
	Expand the parking area	TBD
	Construct a dock	TBD
Delhi Dam South & Portage Access	Future county bridge project	TBD
	Improve portage path and downstream ramp	TBD
Delhi Dam North Access	Improve parking area to reduce erosion	TBD
	Add a trail along the river for fishing access	TBD
	Acquire land downstream to connect to Shearer Wildlife Area	TBD
Pioneer Road Access	Replace bottom step	TBD
	Possible replacement for Pioneer Road Access at bridge crossing at 295 th Street	TBD
Dunlap Park Access	Improve portage path – the existing path is a little uneven in some spots.	TBD
	Consider a dam mitigation project to reduce or eliminate the rapids hazard	TBD
Access Downstream from Hardscrabble Wildlife Area Access	Coordinate with Jones County Conservation to designate a state water trail access	TBD

Steering Committee

Name	Organization
Garlyn Glanz\ Kyle Soderblom	Delaware CCB
Keith Krause	Delaware CCB
Erin Erickson	Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority
Dave Mack	NRCS
Donna Boss	Delaware County Economic Development
Dan Kirby	Iowa DNR
Tom Norlin	River User
Dave Guthrie	River User
Steve Leonard	Lake Delhi Association